

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 13-22, 26, 27, and 30-32 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended for clarification purposes. No claim has been added or canceled.

Claims 1, 9-11, 13-17, 26-30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohran in view of Yanai et al. Claims 2-8, 18-22, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohran in view of Yanai et al. and further in view of Jacobson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephone interview on April 12, 2006. As explained in the interview, none of the cited references discloses or suggest at least the following features:

1. the local disk system having first and second volumes of storage, the first and second volumes associated with first and second encryption keys, respectively (see, e.g., claims 1, 16, 17, 26, 27, 30, and 32)
2. determining whether the data is to be stored in an encrypted form or a decrypted form, the determining being performed by the remote disk system (see, e.g., claim 2)
3. an encryption control table (see, e.g., claim 2)
4. the retrieving step includes accessing the encryption control table to obtain an appropriate encryption key, where the data are encrypted using the first key if the data to be transferred to the remote disk system are associated with the first set of volumes and encrypted using the second key if the data to be transferred to the remote disk system are associated with the second set of volumes (see, e.g., claim 2)
5. in the local disk system, determining a boundary for use of the encryption key by the local disk system; in the remote disk system, receiving the boundary from the local disk system by the remote disk system; in both the local and the remote disk systems, determining a relationship of present operations to the boundary by each of the local and remote disk systems (see, e.g., claim 9)
6. a control table (see, e.g., claim 13)

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PATENT

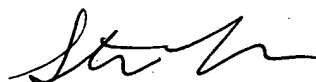
Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable over the cited references at least for the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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